

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION OF TEXT PARA 3 C, SUBPARA 2
LINES 5 AND 6)

E. O. 11652: ADS: DECON JULY 8, 1973

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE: WORKING GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING

THE FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR US REP TO WGRS MEETING
BEGINNING JUNE 25:

A. DESIGNATION OF TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN: THERE IS WIDE SUP-
PORT FOR FRANCO FIORIO (ITALY) AS THE TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN,
EVEN THOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS ARISING
FROM THE FACT THAT HE IS ALREADY THE WGRS CHAIRMAN. USDEL
SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD, IF NECESSARY, TO ENCOURAGE FIORIO TO
ASSUME THE JOB.

B. SUGGESTED TASK FORCE AGENDA:

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1. IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DISSEMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE DATA.

(A) INVITE ACTIVE COUNTRIES TO INDICATE THEIR PRESENT DATA PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CAPABILITIES.

(B) CONSIDER OTHER ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF CENTER OR CENTERS.

(C) CONSIDER THE RELEVANT TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL, PERSONNEL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS RELATED TO SUCH A CENTER OR CENTERS.

2. SPECIFIC AREAS FOR EXAMINATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

(A) POSSIBLE SOURCES AND TYPES OF DATA TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER EACH OF THE ALTERNATIVES.

(B) DATA DISSEMINATION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSING, STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL.

(C) ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF STRUCTURE AND COORDINATION WITH EXISTING UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

(D) APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF REMOTE SENSING FROM SPACE WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST ON CURRENTLY AVAILABLE DATA AND NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING COST CONSIDERATIONS.

3. IN THE INTEREST OF ECONOMY AND EARLY BENEFIT, ESPECIALLY TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE ALTERNATIVES SHOULD BE FORMULATED WITH A VIEW TO:

(A) MAXIMIZING USE OF EXISTING SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

(B) MINIMIZING NEW ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

C. A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS MAY ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH OUR MASTER DATA OFFER OF JAN 30, SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING:

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1. WHAT KIND OF IMAGERY WOULD THE US BE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE?

ANSWER: THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE COPIES OF THE EXPERIMENTAL DATA WE WOULD BE RECEIVING IN OUR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM IN THE FORMAT BEING USED AT THE

TIME OF ACQUISITION.

2. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE MASTER DATA RECORD OF THE KIND PROPOSED?

ANSWER: IN THE PRESENT FORM OF OUR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM, THE US ASSUMES THE COST OF A FULL MASTER DATA RECORD WOULD BE IN THE RANGE OF \$200,000 TO \$400,000 FOR IMAGERY THROUGH MARCH 31. IMAGERY THEREAFTER WOULD BE IN THE RANGE OF \$25-50,000 PER MONTH.

3. WOULD THE US BE PREPARED TO MAKE THE MASTER DATA AVAILABLE WITHOUT CHARGE?

ANSWER: THE US WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE AVAILABLE DATA IN THIS AMOUNT FREE OF CHARGE.

4. WOULD THE US BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISSEMINATION OF DATA ACQUIRED OVER FOREIGN COUNTRIES IF THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH DATA WERE ACQUIRED SHOULD REQUEST THEM?

ANSWER: THE US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FEEL THAT RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISSEMINATION OF SPACE- ACQUIRED DATA FROM ERTS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE OUTER SPACE TREATY, WHICH REQUIRES PARTIES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY " TO THE GREATEST EXTENT FEASIBLE AND PRACTICAL" OF THE NATURE AND RESULTS OF SPACE ACTIVITY. A SIMILAR POLICY IS REFLECTED IN THE BASIC AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION FOR THE US SPACE PROGRAM, WHICH DIRECTS NASA TO " PROVIDE FOR THE WIDEST PRACTICABLE AND APPROPRIATE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE RESULTS THEREOF" AND WHICH PROVIDES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLICITLY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION OBTAINED OR DEVELOPED BY NASA.

5. WOULD THE US CEASE INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF ERS DATA IF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER WERE ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE?

ANSWER: IN PRINCIPLE, WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE A NATIONAL ERS PROGRAM, DISTRIBUTING DATA AS SEEMS APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL TO US. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THE COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCY AND COST TO US OF US AND INTERNATIONAL CENTER DISSEMINATION OF DATA MIGHT MAKE IT DESIRABLE TO REFER REQUESTS TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL CENTER AS LONG AS

DATA ARE AVAILABLE FROM THAT CENTER. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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